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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4833  
INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1408  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 6507  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 1920  
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 6094  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 1270  
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0164  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6425  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1056  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 1456  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2062  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0329  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 8254  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1394  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 2665  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2442  
RUEHKK/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0152  
RUEHNV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA 7258  
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STATE FOR EB/IFD/OMA for Audu Besmer, and EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO LIBERIA ARREARS CLEARANCE

REF: A) STATE 9925 B) PARIS 400 C) State 15595

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, NOT FOR INTERNET

1. (SBU) We conveyed ref C message about Liberia's arrears to the office of Cooperation Minister Girardin on February 7, and to the MFA on February 8. According to the MFA, France is quite close to re-opening its embassy in Monrovia. The French have asked the Liberian government for agreement for their proposed chief of mission, MFA official Jacques Gerard (currently stationed in Juba, Sudan). Once the Liberians respond, the French plan to move expeditiously to reopen their mission. The MFA hopes Gerard will be able to attend the Partnership Forum in Washington.

2. (SBU) We spoke on February 7 with Jerome Walter, advisor to Cooperation Minister Brigitte Girardin. Walter promised to pass the message to Girardin. He noted that the African Development Bank had gone beyond the norm for use of PCCF in clearing arrears for the Central African Republic, and perhaps something similar could be done for Liberia. He added that Girardin would be represented at the Partnership Forum by the Ministry of Finance's Financial Counselor for Africa, Serge Tomasi.

3. (SBU) On February 8 Ramon Fernandez, PDAS for international finance and development affairs at the French Ministry of Finance, told us he had seen the Finance Minister of Liberia last week in Paris and made the point that France strongly supports Liberia. But on arrears clearance there is a need to follow rules. He concluded that France remains ready to help on this matter.

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